

## The Reality of a Hell

The scriptures speak with a voice of thunder, echoing through the ages, about the stark reality of Hell. It is not a myth, nor a mere symbol of separation from the divine, but a place of eternal consequence, as real as the ground beneath our feet and the sky above our heads. The Bible, through its various passages, paints a vivid picture of Hell as a place of unquenchable fire, where the worm does not die and the fire is not quenched, a lake of fire that burns with sulfur, where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth. It is described as a place prepared for the devil and his angels, a place of torment and utter darkness where the inhabitants will experience eternal separation from the glory and love of God.

The prophets and apostles warn us, with urgent and impassioned pleas, to heed the reality of Hell. Hebrews 10:1 speaks of the shadow of good things to come, not the very image of the things, which can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. Matthew 23:33 asks, "How can you escape the condemnation of Hell?" James 3:6 describes the tongue as a fire, a world of iniquity, so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of Hell.

Matthew 5:22 warns that anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of Hell. Matthew 10:28 instructs us to fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in Hell. Mark 9:47 tells us it is better to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than having two eyes to be cast into Hell fire.

The apostle Peter, in 2 Peter 2:4, reminds us that God did not spare the angels when they sinned, but cast them down to Hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment. Matthew 23:15 condemns the hypocrisy of those who travel across sea and land to make a single proselyte, and when he becomes one, they make him twice as much a child of Hell as they are. Revelation 20:14 declares that death and Hell were cast into the lake of fire, which is the second death. Isaiah 14:9 foretells that Hell from beneath is moved to meet thee at thy coming: it stirreth up the dead for thee, even all the chief ones of the earth; it hath raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations.

Revelation 6:8 speaks of a pale horse, and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. Deuteronomy 32:22 warns of a fire that is kindled in God's anger, and shall burn unto the lowest Hell, and shall consume the earth with her increase, and set on fire the foundations of the mountains. Revelation 1:18 proclaims that Jesus holds the keys of Hell and of

death. Ezekiel 31:16 and 32:21 speak of the mighty leaders of nations, who are brought down to Hell with those who descend into the pit. Jonah 2:2 recounts the prophet's cry from the belly of Hell, heard by God. Ezekiel 31:15 says that in the day when he went down to the grave, God made a mourning for him; He covered the deep for him, and restrained the floods thereof, and the great waters were stayed.

Zephaniah 2:2 urges us to seek the Lord, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the Lord's anger. Revelation 3:1 warns the church in Sardis that they have a name that they live, but are dead. Isaiah 38:10 speaks of the despair felt in the face of death, when one says, "I shall go to the gates of Hell." Esther 8:13 allows the Jews to gather themselves together, and to stand for their life. Romans 4:11 speaks of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of all who believe. 1 Samuel 3:15 tells of Samuel, who lay until the morning, and opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Ecclesiastes 9:3 laments that the hearts of the sons of men are full of evil, and madness is in their heart while they live, and after that they go to the dead.

These passages are not to be taken lightly, for they are the very words of life and death. They are a solemn reminder that our choices in this life echo into

eternity. Let us, therefore, live with the weight of this truth pressing upon our hearts, turning from sin and embracing the salvation offered through Jesus Christ, that we may escape the wrath to come and be granted eternal life in the presence of our Creator. For the reality of Hell is a call to righteousness, a call to repentance, a call to take hold of the hope that is set before us in the gospel, lest we find ourselves facing the eternal consequences of our rebellion against the holy and just God who will by no means clear the guilty.